

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. David Akeegok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hannah Angootealuk
(Aivilik)

Edward Attagutaluk
(Aggu)

Hon. Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Deputy Premier of Nunavut; Minister of Justice; Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut; Minister responsible for the Labour Standards Board; Minister responsible for the Human Rights Tribunal

Jamie Kablutsiak
(Arviat South)

Gordon Kautuk
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Brian Koonoo
(Tununiq)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy

Simon Kuliktana
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall
(Netsilik)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Finance; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board

Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)

Fred Pedersen
(Cambridge Bay)

David Porter
(Gjoa Haven)

Abraham Qammaniq
(Amittuq)

(Vacant)
(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister responsible for Mines; Minister responsible for Trade

Hon. Annie Tattuinee
(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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(Quttiktuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Members Present:

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Jamie Kablutsiak, Mr. Gordon Kautuk, Hon. Brian Koonoo, Mr. Simon Kuliktana, Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall, Hon. John Main, Mr. Johnny Mike, Mr. Fred Pedersen, Mr. David Porter, Mr. Abraham Qammaniq, Hon. Craig Simailak, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Item number 1 in our *Orders of the Day*. I ask Mr. Simailak to open this session with prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Good afternoon, members, and also the people of Nunavut, and to the people who are listening to the proceedings and watching the proceedings on TV.

Going to the *Orders of the Day*. Item number 2, Ministers' Statements. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 79 – 7(2): STEM Careers/International Female Engineers Day

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Grade 12 students who are preparing to graduate and finish their high school journey.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage these students to pursue education and careers in the science, technology, engineering or math fields, more commonly known as STEM.

Mr. Speaker, as my department employs many individuals with backgrounds in these areas, and we need more Nunavummiut to gain these valuable skills, return to Nunavut, and fill critical roles in the Transportation, Information Management, Information Technology, and Infrastructure Branches of my department.

Mr. Speaker there are many exciting and rewarding career opportunities within the Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut Department that offer meaningful and fulfilling work for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as June 23 marks International Women in Engineering Day, I would like to specifically encourage our female graduates to consider careers in engineering and other STEM-related fields. My department employs and works closely with many engineers, and it is important that we continue to encourage young women to see engineering and STEM as exciting, achievable and rewarding career paths.

Thank you, Mister Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Minister's Statement 80 – 7(2): Recognizing Long-Term Service at Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to recognize and express my sincere appreciation to employees of the Nunavut Housing Corporation who have given more than 20 years of service to housing across Nunavut.

Public service is not always easy work. Often, it is quiet work. It is showing up every day, helping people through difficult situations, solving problems, supporting colleagues, and carrying out responsibilities that truly matter.

Mr. Speaker, housing is one of the most important responsibilities in our territory. It touches every community and every family. A home is not just a building. It is where Nunavummiut raise children, care for elders, rest after work, and build their future.

The employees we recognize today have given a significant part of their careers to that work. They have served through many changes and difficult circumstances. They have supported tenants, maintained homes, managed programs, answered questions and carried out work Nunavummiut rely on. That kind of service deserves our respect.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following Nunavut Housing Corporation employees from Arviat for their many years of service:

Jacqueline Otuk, Manager, Community Development, for 20 years; Karen Panigoniak, Manager, Rental Housing Programs, 21 years; Alex Ishalook, Manager, Community Development, 22 years; Francine Kablutsiak, Divisional Secretary, 24 years; Juanita King-Kuksuk, Community Development Officer, 24 years; Jimmy Main, Vice President, Operations, 24 years; Graham Gavin, Manager, Community Development, 27 years; Susan Karetak, Administrative Assistant, 28 years.

I would also like to recognize Julia Comeau, Executive Secretary here in Iqaluit, for 27 years; and Donna-Lee Ekpakohak, Mortgage and Lands Officer, Cambridge Bay, 28 years.

Mr. Speaker, these employees have made a real contribution to public housing across Nunavut. Their service reflects the experience, professionalism, and steady commitment that public service depends on.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I thank you for your dedication, service, and continued commitment to Nunavummiut.

I ask all members of this House to join me in thanking these valued employees for their many years of public service. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Congratulations to them as well from all of us. Ministers' Statement. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 81 – 7(2): Nunatsiavut Visitors and Exchange

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, we are thinking of William's family, who will be having funeral service, and we think of them.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is proud of the range of Inuit language and culture programs it offers. Programs like Inuit Studies, Interpreter-Translator program, Fur Production and Design, and Jewellery and Metalwork programs provide opportunities to explore a range of Inuit cultural expressions.

These efforts are further extended through the program and courses offered by Piqqusilirivvik in Clyde River. Piqqusilirivvik is the College's Inuit cultural school, a first for the territory in Nunavut. Its programming focuses on Inuit knowledge and experience and is offered in Inuktut.

Since 2011, Piqqusilirivvik has been providing Inuit-centred training to Inuit from across the territory. This program draws on the experience of Inuit, and is supported by learning in the classroom, through cultural demonstrations, as well as on-the-land learning and development of cultural skills. The College is very proud to have Piqqusilirivvik as part of its learning network.

Our efforts to expand education that is focused on Inuit culture and language are being recognized by Inuit in other regions. The college was proud to welcome a group of Inuit

from Nunatsiavut, who visited Piquusilirivvik and the community of Clyde River in May. During this visit, the group was able to see the facilities, learn about the programming, and meet the inspiring instructors, elders, and staff who work on site. It is always good when Inuit from different places come together to learn about each other.

On their way home, the Nunatsiavut group also met with staff at the Nunatta Campus to learn about the programming offered at the Nunatta Campus. I have come to understand this was a very engaging visit. Before the fall, a group from Piquusilirivvik will be travelling to Nunatsiavut to meet their leaders, community members, and interpreter-translators to learn about their training and learning plans and needs.

Inuit have always strived to work together. At Nunavut Arctic College, it is our hope these visits inspire ongoing conversations about how Inuit across Inuit Nunangat can work together in support of collective learning.

In closing, I would like to recognize Susan Enuaraq as the Chair for Piquusilirivvik. She started in this role in 2025, and we thank her for her leadership and support for this program in Clyde River, and the satellite programming offered in Igloolik and Baker Lake.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Before we move on to item number 3, I would like to advise the members that the member for Aivilik will be absent because he's not feeling well. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 80 – 7(2): Sealing and Fishing Research Reliability

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Good afternoon, Inuit, to the people of Nunavut, and to the people of Pangnirtung, and also the fishermen.

I rise today under Members' Statement in regards to Nunavut's fishing and sealing planning for 2023-2028. It's probably evident that I'm very passionate about fisheries, because there's a lot to be done yet with the fisheries management for Nunavut, because it's an opportunity for economic development, which is around \$100 million sales, tax, and it can also come back to Nunavut territory.

(interpretation ends) Offshore development, on the priority strategy, I want to say that we need to see consistent and reliable population monitoring. It is needed to sustainably manage of Nunavut's offshore fisheries. (interpretation) I know that it has not been the

case and there has not been any research done. That's why the Nunavut corridor was reduced, and it's is very difficult forever.

(Interpretation ends) However, this research is often limited at the federal level by funding availability and capacity within the Arctic region. This can limit quota increase, and often leaves communities and co-management.

(interpretation) When we talk about co-management, sometimes it's good to say, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask direct my question, I would like to ask if I can be given more time to ask my questions.

Speaker: The member is asking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There's no nays. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): This prevents quota increase (interpretation) and often leaves communities and co-management partners without valuable information on offshore stock. An increase in the dedication of the federal resources to the Arctic region is needed to ensure sustainable management practices, while also facilitating appropriate goals of the fishery for the benefit of Nunavut.

Turbot and shrimp makes up the current commercial offshore harvest, but there are other species in Nunavut-adjacent waters that have a commercial potential. Supporting research and development are emerging fisheries that will help diversify Nunavut's harvest, increasing stability within the sector long-term. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Cambridge Bay MLA, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 81 – 7(2): Cambridge Bay Graduates

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you all, and to those watching our proceedings on television in Cambridge Bay.

On June 13, Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay will be holding its 2026 Grade 12 graduation ceremony. As we won't be sitting in the House on that day, I would like to congratulate the graduation class, and thank their families for the support they have given them throughout their education journey.

The names of the graduates are: Landon Aknavigak, Preston Bouchard, Ty Evalik, Jesse Evetalegak, Joel Koatalok, Brooke Maniyogina, Jeremiah Manigoyina, Shaye Niptanatiak, Kylie Novoligak, Ryan Ohokak, Missy Pagnana, Vincent Panakak, and

Kolby Tologanak-Kaosoni. Please join me in celebrating their achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We celebrate with the graduates. Aggu MLA, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Member's Statement 82 – 7(2): Recognizing Miss Ijiyak

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to show my pride and appreciation to Nujalia Ijiyak.

She began living as a pilot in Rankin Inlet from May to August, 2024. In October 2025, in the month of September and October 2024 to September 2025, she went to school in New Brunswick to become a pilot in a program geared towards our First Peoples, the “Atik Indigenous Pilot Pathway.” Now she flies for Keewatin Air in Nunavut, starting November 2025. She is also a pilot for any emergency calls. We are all so proud of so many talented Nunavummiut.

Speaker (interpretation): Member's Statement. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Member's Statement 83 – 7(2): Poverty Reduction

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ITK, launched its Inuit Nunavut Poverty Reduction Strategy from its Ottawa office June 9.

The strategy is an Inuit-led over-map to reduce poverty-stricken self-determination, and close longstanding socioeconomic gaps between Inuit and non-Indigenous Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, socioeconomic inequity between Inuit and non-Indigenous Canadians, (interpretation) the document, the book was put together by ITK concerning Inuit Nunavut Nunangat:

- (interpretation ends) 32,000 median individual income compared to non-Indigenous Canadian of 100,000;
- 52 per cent employment rate for Inuit; non-Indigenous, 74 per cent employment rate;
- In Inuit Nunangat, 47 per cent overcrowded housing; non-Indigenous Canadians, 9 per cent overcrowding housing;

- In Inuit Nunangat, 58 per cent not completed high school; 13 per cent not completed high school for non-Indigenous Canadians;
- In Inuit Nunangat, 21 per cent completed post-secondary education; and 61 per cent completed post-secondary education for non-Indigenous Canadians;
- Inuit across Inuit Nunangat, 68 per cent children experiencing food insecurity; and non-Indigenous Canadians, 17 per cent of children experiencing food insecurity;
- Inuit across Inuit Nunangat, 72 years average life expectancy; non-Indigenous Canadians, 85 years average life expectancy;
- For Inuit across Nunavut Nunangat, 19 per cent homeownership; non-Indigenous Canadians, 67 per cent home ownership.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I'm asking to extend my time.

Speaker (interpretation): The member wants to finish his statement today. Any nays? Hearing none, Mr. Kablutsiak, carry on.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Here in the book "Ikajuqtigiikta", 2026 Assembly mandate, it mentions on page 14, (interpretation ends) "demonstrate unity in our partnerships."

Bullet number 7, "explore and implement ways to reduce the cost and time involved in construction in Nunavut, while maximizing benefits to the territory economy.

(interpretation) I anticipate or expect, Mr. Speaker, that reading this article and the need to progress within Nunavut and that we need to be working together here, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Iqaluit-Manirajak MLA, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Member's Statement 84 – 7(2): AFN 45th Anniversary

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and good afternoon to all my colleagues and to Iqalummiut watching online and enjoying the beautiful sunshine today.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the L'Association des Francophones du Nunavut, or AFN, which is located in the Iqaluit-Manirajak riding and serves all of Nunavut, they marked their 45th anniversary with a celebration here in the city.

Founded in 1981, the AFN has launched numerous initiatives, including a multicultural community daycare centre here in 1990. They have been active on the radio waves since the 1980s, and they have been active in print media with the launch of their newspaper. They also worked to establish French language education services, and a community centre here that is welcoming to a diversity of community groups and also hosts the community theatre initiative.

I wish to extend my congratulations to their board and their members on the celebration of their milestone anniversary. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 85 – 7(2): Safety During Spring Travels

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's springtime now, and it's great that many people here in Iqaluit are travelling on the land and walking leisurely elsewhere.

Just a note of caution: The rivers are just starting to flow, and the ice starts melting from the bottom. Although the top may appear safe, be cautious. And our elders often go on the CBC Radio to inform the public during this time, and I want everyone to take notice.

Yes, the weather is beautiful here in Iqaluit; you want to be outside. And if you're out, if anything happens, using an emergency call or a signal, or to inform people if you plan to go out on the ice.

When you're walking, sometimes a little creek can turn into a big river or a gushing river. For safety reasons, yes, our community is welcoming, but there are dangers around, and we have to be conscientious while here in Iqaluit, perhaps all of Nunavut. Our country is beautiful, and during springtime that beauty intensifies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Baker Lake MLA, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 86 – 7(2): Baker Lake Retirees

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week in Baker Lake at the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School, they celebrated two retirements. The first one was for Jake Iksiktaaryuk. He served 39 years in total. He was a custodian. All those years he

ensured, our first school Iliitsijaqturvik, and now the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School, was safe and clean on a regular basis.

The other one is my aunt, Marion Putumiraqtuq, a combined total of 48 years between being a teacher and a student support assistant. She spent her career providing students with a safe and culturally reflective educational experience.

They held a wonderful event last week Thursday, celebrating their careers and their service to education in the community of Baker Lake. In total there was about 80 family, friends, colleagues and former colleagues in attendance.

Jake and Marion, enjoy your requirement. Well deserved. Thank you for your many years of services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Moving on, item 4, Return to Oral Questions. Minister of Culture, Mr. Koonoo.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 73 – 7(2): Traditional Place Names in Coral Harbour

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to supplement my response to Oral Question 73-7(2) I was asked on June 2, 2026 by the Member for Aivilik, Hannah Angootealuk, who is not here at the moment.

Mr. Speaker, in my response I referred to an Indigenous advisor appointed to the Geographical Names Board of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that appointment is separate from the Department of Culture and Heritage Territorial toponymous position. The territorial toponymous position is currently vacant, and the department is taking steps throughout the Government of Nunavut staffing process to fill the position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We're on item 4, Return to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Minister Akeegok.

Return to Oral Question 78 – 7(2): Departmental Infrastructure in Arviat

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm returning to Oral Question No. 83-7(2), dated June 3, 2026, asked by MLA for Arviat South, Jamie Kablutsiak, and asked of our Hon. John Main, Acting Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide additional information on repairs and renovations to the schools and the Department of Education office in Arviat.

On June 3, 2026, the member from Arviat South asked for a summary of projects being undertaken in Arviat schools.

Katittuq Middle School has a water tank replacement planned for this summer. John Amalukjuak High School, as well as Katittuq Middle School are also both scheduled to have oil tank replacements completed, and the tender for the work has been issued with a closing date of June 26.

The Department of Education is also planning and seeking funding for several other projects at Arviat schools, including a new wheelchair ramp for Levi Angmak School and Qitiqliq Middle School; siding replacements for Levi Angmak School; and potential major renovations at Qitiqliq Middle School.

We look forward to completing these projects to support the upkeep of our school infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Arviat South also asked about renovations to the Department of Education's office in the Pana building in Arviat. The Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students and Curriculum Division Office underwent a major renovation which was completed in late summer 2025. The renovation included new flooring, new furniture, wall painting and insulation, new boardroom.

While we have issues with the activation of new key fobs, the department is looking into the matter and hopes to have it resolved shortly.

These office renovations will mean to improve efficiency and security of the office and support the important work of those divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's questions, and I welcome him to follow up with me directly if there are any more specific details that he would like. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Return to Oral Questions. The Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Return to Oral Question 97 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to supplement an answer I shared during question period on June 8, 2026 in response to question 97 – 7(2) asked by Mr. Taqtu on the activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The member asked for an update on the construction timeline for the six-unit stick-build in Grise Fiord. This development includes three one-bedroom and three three-bedroom units. The project has experienced schedule impacts due to delays with the piling foundation installation in 2025.

Based on current information from our general contractor, the foundation work is planned for fall 2026, with a revised targeted completion date of October 2027. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day*. Item number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Lyall.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and welcome to the House Julia Comeau, a real integral part of our operations at our headquarters here in Iqaluit.

Julia has worked with the Nunavut Housing Corporation for 27 years. Currently as the executive secretary at NHC, Julia is one of the first persons people see when they come to our offices and help create the work environment that we strive for at our offices. Thank you, Julia, and welcome to your House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, Ms. Comeau. And also you worked for a while in Kinngait, and I recognize you. Welcome to the House.

Orders of the Day. Number 6, Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 113 – 7(2): Activities of Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Kautuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. We have been thinking of his family.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Nunavut Arctic College is responsible for the Piqusilirivvik School in Clyde River and satellite programs offered in Baker Lake and Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, the Piqqusilirivvik facility is very beautiful, and it is important that it be fully utilized. Information published in the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that 40 per cent of the positions are currently vacant.

Can the minister confirm which positions are currently vacant, and can he provide an update on the college's effort to fill the position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague: Piqqusilirivvik is a beautiful building and it needs to be utilized more, and we feel that, we know that; and its staff, the more staff that they need are always getting more settled.

As to which positions are vacant, I don't have that information in front of me but I can get it. But I would like to say that, as minister, I directed Nunavut Arctic College to make sure that they try to fill the positions, so this is being worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Nunavut Arctic College current Business Plan indicates that it will "initiate formal program reviews program under the Language and Culture portfolio, including program outlines, learning outcomes and program materials and resources, to ensure programs are updated and expands its use of relevant Inuit language, culture, history, contemporary experience."

Can the minister confirm how many students are currently enrolled in programs at the Piqqusilirivvik School in Clyde River, and the satellite campuses in Baker Lake and Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now Piqqusilirivvik has shut down for the end of the school year, but they will be reopening in the fall.

As to the question about the positions in language programs for the Piqqusilirivvik, Nunavut Arctic College is working on that, and as they are being worked on, I will be directing them to make sure that they consult with the Inuit for their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response.

As the minister is aware, Nunavut Arctic College is responsible for the Community Learning Centre in Qikiqtarjuaq. I strongly support programs for adult learners in the community. Information published in the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that almost 75 per cent of the facility's positions are currently vacant.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of filling the vacant position at Qikiqtarjuaq Community Learning Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the topic suddenly changed, so I'm trying to find the answer about the positions, vacant positions in Qikiqtarjuaq.

We have community learning centres in all of Nunavut, and some of them have vacant positions. As I stated when I became minister, I directed the staff to concentrate on filling these positions, because they can cause a lot of problems when they are not manned or when they are vacant. So we're always looking for staff to fill those positions, but sometimes they take a long time to find someone and that causes delays.

So I will direct them again to make sure that they advertise the jobs, and they should look and find staff before the start of the new school year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Oral Question 114 – 7(2): Education Infrastructure

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education. It's great to see the minister back in the House, because I have a question for him.

(interpretation ends) Your department has been undertaking renovation and repair work to address a number of issues at Igloodik Ataguttaaluk Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important for our children and their teachers to have a safe place in which to learn. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Education, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this work had to be done on a very rushed basis, and the work is continuing. The issues are being worked on and the renovation will continue, because we want to see a properly put-up school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary question, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Igloolik recently lost a major building due to fire. We know that there have been a number of Nunavut schools lost to fire in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, a major part of the department's repair project in Igloolik has been to address fire safety issues at the Ataguttaaluk Elementary School.

Can the minister confirm that the school is now fully compliant with fire code requirements and can he confirm when the facility was mostly recently inspected by the Office of the Fire Marshal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Education, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm whether it is compliant now, but every time we do major renovations and upgrades, those are the very core, those are core equipments that need to be in the school. I want to assure that that will be for that, but I can't speak for the fire marshal whether if it is compatible or not. That is an office independent that determines whether the building is compliant or not.

We will ensure that when that school renovation is done, we'll continue to work very closely with the fire marshal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department has been working to expand the availability of full-day kindergarten to communities in Nunavut. Information published by the department has indicated that "not all of Nunavut's schools have the required space or resource to support full-day kindergarten."

Can the minister provide a timeline for the expansion of full-day kindergarten to Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the full-time daycare for this upcoming school year, our focus has been to Rankin Inlet and Arviat right now. And we do have a scaling list of communities and which years that we're hoping to, but it's very fluctuating.

But all schools are being considered for full-time kindergarten and with the limited resources that we do have, we are rolling it in a very slower pace. But I want to assure my member colleagues that our focus and our efforts is to have full-day kindergarten in all of our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Porter.

Oral Question 115 – 7(2): Activities of Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Arctic College, and welcome back to the House.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Arctic College has a total of 2.27 vacancies in Gjoa Haven. However, the report indicates that positions in Gjoa Haven are vacant; and the same situation are the communities of Igloolik, Kugaaruk and Resolute Bay. The only communities in which it has no vacancies are Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Arctic College has an important role in providing education and training opportunities. Can the minister indicate how the college is providing programs in communities where it has no staff or very few staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Akeagok.

Hon. David Akeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Not having staff does hurt in terms of our community learning centres which we want, which we have committed to providing at every Nunavut community. And that becomes a big strain. We can't offer the programs unless we have a person to deliver it.

I know that Arctic College have been creating in the positions that they cannot fill, that they do have consultants that are able to go into communities and deliver some of the programs that are needed, and that combination has enabled us to deliver majority of the programs.

As I mentioned earlier, I'm very committed and I have instructed our Arctic College that staffing those critical vacant positions are our priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. As the minister is aware, Nunavut Arctic College is currently advertising for Arctic educator's position in Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet and Nauyasat. However, the advertising indicates that no housing is available for the positions.

Can the minister indicate how Nunavut Arctic College is working with the Department of Human Resources and Nunavut Housing Corporation to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Akeagok.

Hon. David Akeagok: Mr. Speaker, the Arctic College works very closely with Human Resources and Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As most of us know, the smaller the community, the harder the staff housing becomes. It is a huge challenge that us as government are trying to help solve, but there is not an overnight solution. And I applaud my colleague responsible for housing for trying to get those 3,000 houses. Once those are there, it will be a lot easier.

When there is no housing, I think what Arctic College has been doing has been creative, such as for the Nunavut Teachers Education Program, is offering online, and that has helped us deliver programs. And for other programs, if there's bundled programs like that, that might be an option. So I keep that very closely with the Nunavut Arctic College in terms of how they can help bring those programs into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the minister's response. The municipality of Gjoa Haven's current infrastructure plans indicates that:

"The Nunavut Arctic College adult learning centre in Gjoa Haven has not been used for several years. This is impacting our community members to access education, and limiting opportunities for Gjoa Havenmiut. Further, the building has become an evening hang-out for youth and is being vandalized. The mayor and council feel that it is urgent that the Government of Nunavut revitalize this important piece of infrastructure, both cosmetically, and providing services."

Can the minister indicate how the Nunavut Arctic College is addressing this concern?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud my colleague for letting us know that it is being vandalized. We don't have human resources in every one of our communities, so any information that is provided, if we can get that as early as possible before it becomes further vandalized is very welcome.

I know Arctic College in the past few years now have been conducting community assessment in every one of our infrastructure and if vandalism starts taking place, that is an additional cost that this government is going to have to borrow, and something that I don't want to see. I would rather have that building used and trained and educate our people in Nunavut, and every help that we can get is very useful.

I want to thank my colleague for letting me know that vandalism is taking place in the community, in our building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Oral Question 116 – 7(2): Air Quality

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today is for the Minister of Health and they concern the issue of air quality.

Mr. Speaker, I was interested to note that the government issued a news release earlier this week concerning its participation in a national organization that responds to wildland fires.

In recent years, the smoke from forest fires in southern Canada has impacted our air quality up here in Nunavut. It is an undeniable impact of climate change, and I see that every summer in my community of Kugluktuk where wildfires have tremendous effect on our elders' and community members' respiratory issues.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the Department of Health indicates "regular air quality monitoring in Nunavut is currently available only in Iqaluit through the National Air Pollution Surveillance Program. Informed monitoring also takes place in Arviat and Kugluktuk."

Can the minister describe how her department works with the Department of Environment in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

Mr. Speaker, air quality monitoring and environmental reporting are primarily the responsibility of the Department of Environment. From the Health perspective, our role is to provide advice and information to Nunavummiut when air quality may affect their health.

So what we do is we bring our officials together to talk about these issues and to ensure that when an air quality issue might be noted by the outdoor air quality monitoring that is occurring, the chief public health officer is made aware and then the decision about whether or not to issue an air quality advisory is up to the chief public health officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot emphasize it enough the impact of poor air quality on our elders and people with respiratory conditions, such as asthma.

Can the minister describe how the community health centre in Kugluktuk and other Nunavut communities are preparing for the warmer summer months when air quality can suffer due to dust and smoke?

When I was quite younger, this was really never an issue, but with climate change it is an everyday factor now that we have to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Air quality monitoring is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Environment. And the Department of Health does become involved when there are potential impacts on the health of Nunavummiut.

In the past, the department has issued public health advisories related to wildfire smoke affecting Nunavut communities, and those are mainly from the Northwest Territories, and has provided guidance to residents on reducing exposure when air quality deteriorates.

Mr. Speaker, the staff at each of our health centres is in constant contact with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer when these issues arise, and will often work with their

community health representatives to give information to the community to help them to protect themselves from issues that arise from air quality.

And of course there's always ongoing education to community members to do what they can in their own homes to ensure good air quality, such as not smoking inside.

And Mr. Speaker, to answer the question, there is a constant communication between the chief public health officer and officials at health centres to ensure that they are aware of any air quality issues that may arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your response.

I listened with interest to the questions that my colleague from Aivilik asked on Monday to the Minister of Community Services concerning dust suppression.

As the Minister of Health is aware, residents of Iqaluit are privileged to live in a community where many of the roads are paved. This significantly reduces the amount of dust that is in the air during the warmer summer months.

Can the Minister of Health describe how her department is working with the Department of Community Services to address the health impacts of dust in Nunavut communities?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departmental officials are in constant communication about issues that affect the health of Nunavummiut and what steps can be taken in order to ensure the health of Nunavummiut.

I don't have specific details today about what those discussions are between Community Services and Department of Health officials regarding dust suppression. However, I would be happy to speak to the member at another time when I do have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Qammaniq.

Oral Question 117 – 7(2): Education Infrastructure

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education. Welcome back; we are full of questions by the time you are arrive back.

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved capital funding earlier this year for the department to undertake repairs and lifecycle upgrades to schools across the territory during 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Information provided by the department indicates that the Sanirajak Arnaqjuaq School is urgently in need of renovations and repairs.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the department's work to address the identified issues with Sanirajak's Arnaqjuaq School? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we approved the capital funding for the department. After it has been approved, we'll be able to start and initiate the work program. I'll look into it to make sure that the order has been done to be shipped by ships. So usually the plans, we go through the cycle, and we do have very good staff within the department.

Once the capital funding has been approved, so they start ordering right away. That's my response at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of questions have been asked in the House during the previous Legislative Assembly concerning the department's timetable for constructing new schools. I understand and recognize that a number of factors go into these decisions, including building conditions and school utilization rates.

Can the minister provide an update today on the utilization rate of Sanirajak's Arnaqjuaq School? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can say that for fiscal year 2025, looking at the Business Plan that we have, there is \$2.4 billion that we require to make sure that we respond to all the requests and prioritize which school needs to be renovated or which community needs a new school, and looking at the funding that we require for the Department of Education, and they will build a new school and they also utilize capital estimates.

We are short of funds, so therefore we tried to make plans to make sure that we respond to the priorities. There are 40 schools at this time that will be utilized in Nunavut, and they require renovations all the time. As well, the population of communities grow as they grow. And we are working very hard to find additional funds to be used for those programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question. Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, his department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included funding for school buses.

Can the minister confirm which communities will be receiving new school buses during the 2026-2027 fiscal year? And can he indicate how his department supports communities to keep existing school buses in good working condition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased and happy about the questions that are being posed to me.

It has been a while since I opened my business plan, so I can't exactly find where it is at at this moment. Sometimes I can't find them right away.

For the buses, there are 54 school buses, existing school buses for 2026-2027. Whale Cove and Coral Harbour require a bus, and those two communities as I stated before and I wrote a letter to the local education authority: Please provide information to us and write us a letter if you would like to get a bus.

Looking at the capital plans, we are able to order two school buses per year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluktuuttiaq, Mr. Pedersen.

Oral Question 118 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I would like to thank the minister for providing us the information on the planned public and staff housing units that our communities will be receiving in the 2026-2027 fiscal

year. I am pleased to hear that Cambridge Bay will be getting four new modular homes to add to the total number of units available in the community.

I'm also pleased to hear that the units are being supplied by Arctic Modular Homes. This company has been providing homes in the community for several years now, and is owned by former residents of the community.

My understanding is that the contract to supply the homes and the contract to assemble the homes after arrival are two separate contracts. Further, my understanding is that under the Nunavut 3000 Strategy, that most of the homes were to be contracted to the Nunavut Construction Corporation.

For the 2026-2027 season, I notice that none of the contracts appear to be with the Nunavut Construction Corporation. Can the minister explain this change? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. Currently for this construction season, with the mixture of modular and traditional stick build housing units across the territory, when we were looking at the awarded contracts for this sealift, coming in with the traditional stick build, we were also looking at the capacity of different organizations to be able to execute those construction of the anticipated units, and also recognizing that our contractor from previous years is still in progress towards the completion of those awarded contracts.

So we were looking at ensuring that we have the capacity across the territory in coming into each of our communities, and recognizing that we are coming out with an ambitious build plan for this sealift, and some of them also being modular and working with different modular suppliers.

So our goal for this season was coming in with a number of different suppliers to be able to ensure that we have that capacity and are developing in the construction sector across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your response, Minister.

In Cambridge Bay we received eight modular homes last year, and I believe that both the supply of the homes and the assembly of the homes was done by the same contractor. The total timeline from sealift arrival to being ready, to being move-in ready for all eight

units was eight weeks. I have been surprised to hear that in other communities it has taken much longer, and in some cases, a year or more longer, before modular homes are assembled in a community.

Mr. Speaker, with modulars, all that is required is to have the unit placed on a lot, stairs and landings constructed to allow access, sewage tanks installed, fuel tanks installed, skirting installed and power hooked up from the grid to each unit. This is of course dependent that the available lots have already been completed, and power poles are accessible.

Mr. Speaker, my questions to the minister is this: Why are the supply contracts and the assembly contracts two separate contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. And I thank the member for attending the opening of those units in Cambridge Bay earlier this fall.

Not every modular supplier also comes into the community and assists in the installation of the units, and we do recognize that was something unique with Arctic Modular Homes. And having the supplier come in as well to tag along the installation of that I think really assisted in how quickly those units were able to come in and be installed.

With the modular housing units, we do come into the hamlet councils and have submitted applications for the development permit and the lots prior to them arriving on the sealift.

In Cambridge Bay it's important to recognize the council, and the community has been very proactive in their land planning and their development planning, which might not be the case for every community.

Some communities there are different circumstances, be it with having adequate granular in the community to be able to develop the lots; not every community owns the equipment to be able to do so. And also the necessary equipment to come in to build those pads or come in for the power we see in some of our smaller communities, that timeline is a bit longer. And there are also unanticipated other delays that we may see.

And it varies community to community. We do really recognize that Arctic Modular. That was a very expedited timeline which we don't see in other communities. Currently right now we have some communities that the modulars arrived and haven't been installed due to other factors, but where possible, we try to work with the municipality and the contractor to be able to address these issues as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again, thanks for your reply. I think with Arctic Modular, with their staff being in the community for the assembly, that it went really quick. I believe it makes good sense to have the supplier of the modular homes to at least have a representative in the community when assembly is happening. They are, after all, very familiar with connecting the pods together, and where any finishing components are required.

So my final question is: In the supply contracts, is there a stipulation to ensure that they are there for the assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing, Ms. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

Again, not every supplier has the ability to do so. Where possible, we try and have individuals from the company also assist in the installation of the modulars. A lot of our contracts we would see individuals from the company supplying the modular come in and observe and assist where possible in the installation of the modulars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. MLA for Quttiktuq, Mr. Taqtu.

Oral Question 119 – 7(2): Education Infrastructure

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question today for the Minister of Education. (interpretation ends) As the minister is very much aware, Arctic Bay Inuujaq School was constructed over half a century ago and it is in need of replacement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the staff of the school and the community's district education authority for their work.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education's five-year capital plan indicates funding for the design of the new school will begin during the 2028-2029 fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm the timeline for the construction of the new school, and can he describe what planning work his department will undertake over the next year to prepare for the major project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, you're not complete. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you and, great, you have missed me. Often I'm asked questions and it's great to receive questions.

2028 the design will begin at that time. It will be presented to the community and look at the design and the cost estimates. Upon completing that, the construction phase as we go along with our process; within five years completion date, and the construction starting in 2028. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department has been working to expand availability of full-day kindergarten to a number of communities across the territory. Information provided by his department indicates that the construction of a new school for Arctic Bay will include expanded space for this.

Can the minister indicate when full-day kindergarten is expected to be offered in the community of Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the full-day daycare also requires a number of infrastructure increases, in terms of if it doesn't already have enough in terms of for the schools.

For the recommended protections with the Inuujaq School and how limited it is right now, with the number of kindergartens that came this past year, even makes it more limited. So I can't give you a definitive date when the full-time daycare would be, but it is built into the new capital fund, the new capital plan for replacement of the Inuujaq School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, I am very proud of the schools in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

As the minister is aware, the Legislative Assembly approved capital funding earlier this year for his department to undertake smaller scale repairs and lifecycle improvements.

Can the minister highlight what work is being undertaken at schools in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the member doesn't mind, I would like to provide him more details at a separate time, because that lifecycle is an evolving project.

Our department tries to plan as best as they could, and when something major happens, like a sewage burst here in Iqaluit, that cost more than what the lifecycle, almost what the lifecycle is, and our department has to move the monies around.

So I'll keep the members, as I have always done, through the form of correspondence when that lifecycle is changed, and that keeps an open dialogue with my colleagues in terms of what is happening, and gives me the ability to explain what the reasons are, why it's not there anymore.

I don't want to say that here are the projects. And for the lifecycle, it's not really definitive until orders are done. And for this fiscal year right after we passed our capital budget, something major happened that allows us to rethink. I want to keep that dialogue with my colleagues for the lifecycle of what happened within their communities, and I'll commit to doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Arviat South MLA, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Oral Question 120 – 7(2): The Keewatin Dialect

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the minister responsible for languages, and they concern the Keewatin dialect.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, yesterday in the House he announced newly appointed board members in the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtit. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the board members of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtit, including Shelton Nipisar and Mary Thompson, who are both from Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Keewatin dialect is spoken in a number of communities across the Kivalliq Region, including Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, on September 17, 2025, the minister of the day tabled the 2025-2028 *Inuktitut Language Training Strategic Plan* in the House. Priority area of the strategy plan is to identify and develop Inuktitut training programs. And the strategy indicates that one of its objectives is to “identify, access and update existing resources, programs in collaboration with existing language delivery partners and Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtit.”

Can the minister indicate what the current expected timeline is for the completion of this important work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Languages, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question.

This was late in coming with appointing board members. At this time access is slowly taking place and we're just seeking now the educators in Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuktitut language training strategy outlines the Government of Nunavut's plans to promote the Inuktitut language in workplaces. The strategy indicates that the government will develop and deliver new Inuktitut training programs in hopes of making Inuktitut the primary working language of the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister confirm if there will be Inuktitut language training programs available for government employees in the Kivalliq Region that speak the Keewatin dialect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Languages, Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question.

We try to provide Inuktitut programming, whether you're from Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot, and we try to provide educators in all the regions in teaching Inuktitut to government employees. We also provide training in French as well. Further programs will be provided again in Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that it is vital we prioritize the transfer of the Keewatin dialect to the younger generation. Keeping our language strong is the foundation to keep us deeply rooted in our culture, traditional knowledge, and our heritage.

Can the minister indicate what specific action his department is undertaking in collaboration with the Department of Education to create new language learning resource for Nunavut students in the Keewatin dialect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question.

At this moment we're constantly seeking educators Inuktitut language and programs. Learning materials have been compiled, and we have been seeking an individual who may be providing education, and Keewatin being included. There are different programs in Inuktitut and the Department of Education and the training we provide.

We also include funding for kindergarten to Grade 4, and 2025-2026 funding, \$6,900,000 has been provided for Inuktitut language training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Pagnirtung MLA, Mr. Mike.

Oral Question 121 – 7(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Environment. (interpretation ends) Yesterday I was fishing for answers. Today I'm hunting for answers.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) As the minister is aware, we talked yesterday about caribou management in the Baffin region, and the minister is aware information published by the Nunavut Wildlife -- no. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is planning to hold a meeting in June in Kinngait, in the community of Kinngait. One of the items that the board will be considering is a submission from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment concerning recommended changes to the total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou. It sounds like the minister is going to be changing the way they have been managing the caribou.

When the local HTOs held a meeting, held a conference here at the Aqsarniit Hotel this year, the Department of Environment, what the Department of Environment is supposed to be bringing out is what the wildlife management were talking about. They are going to be looking at the total allowable harvest, or they had been thinking about the total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou, and looking at the survey results.

Reading the minutes, it seems like the most important topic was caribou. They had indicated that there would be 7,500 allowed to be caught in the Baffin region. And elders were there, and with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, they wanted it to be used more in management, and that's what was done.

Mr. Speaker, the people who hunt caribou and people in general want to know what the government is going to set up in terms of caribou management.

(interpretation ends) For the record, can the minister confirm whether or not he personally approved his department's recommendation to the NWMB, and can he confirm who will be appearing before the NWMB on behalf of his department?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague.

To try and talk about this, and as a hunter myself; I'm a hunter too, and as MLA and minister, we have to follow the law. We have to follow the acts. We can't just sidestep them, and that can cause problems. But we have to follow the laws, and that's what we will be doing. We're just waiting for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Now, there were three representatives from the Pangnirtung Hunters & Trappers Organization who took part, and they were all elders, and I want to thank them for taking part in this winter's meeting. And we know because they are elders, they know the situation about today's animals. And the minister is also aware because he attended these meetings.

(interpretation ends) For the record, can the minister confirm whether the QWB supports the department's recommendation to NWMB? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague.

I can't speak for the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. They have their own board, and they make their own announcements on what they support. I can't speak for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. In terms of caribou management, it seems like it's the first time since we got Nunavut government that it has laws that follow Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, because Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was actually followed when they were making the laws. And I know from experience we were told in the past that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be successfully used to manage caribou. And we know that today and we're happy about it.

There was a lot of doubt, because the laws, the very first laws that were made about caribou management followed Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, there were people who doubted that if it would work because it had never been utilized before. And now they follow Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the caribou are increasing in number, because the Inuit expected them to come back. And it's like they're coming back on schedule. And people have said many caribou will come back.

As the minister is aware, the government's current regulations regarding the total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou were published in the *Nunavut Gazette* in July 2022.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide a timeline for when he expects new regulations to be published following the conclusion of the upcoming NWMB process?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague. That is really good news to hear, but as to when it will happen, I can't say right now.

After they meet and once they give me recommendations, then they usually, NIRB usually has 30 days to respond, but the total allowable quotas usually come out in July. It will probably come out in July, but I can't say the exact day right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I have no more names. We will proceed to item number 7, Written Questions. Number 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Minister Healey Akearok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 31 – 7(2): Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting on National Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ People Meetings**

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table the *Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Report on the National Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ People Meetings*, held February 11 and 12, 2026, in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, once the Inuktitut translations are complete, I will file with the clerk for distribution to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Tabled Document 32 – 7(2): Chief Public Health Officer's Biennial Report on Tuberculosis, March 2026

Hon. Janet Brewster: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to table the Chief Public Health Officer's Biennial Report on Tuberculosis, dated March 26, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Main.

Tabled Document 33 – 7(2): Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut's 2025 Annual Report

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table the *Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut's 2025 Annual Report*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If there are no more documents to table, Number 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Pardon me, Item 16 is for Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

And following in accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion Number 4-7-2, the Committee will stay in session until it reports itself out. Before we get to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 15:15 and Committee commenced at 15:47

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Simon Kuliktana): I call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3 and 4. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to continue with the consideration of Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*, starting with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 1 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Main, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Yes, sir.

Chairman: Do you agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. For the record, Minister Main, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my right, your left, Anna Fowler, Deputy Minister; and to my left, your right, Ariel Atienza, Director of Corporate Services.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I welcome the opportunity to present the 2026-2027 main estimates and the 2026-2027 business plan for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Chair, the department's current main estimates for the 2026-2027 fiscal year total \$21.633 million. The breakdown of this budget allows for \$16.014 million allocated for salaries and benefits, \$395,000 for grants and contributions, and \$5.224 million for departmental operations and maintenance. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will have a total of 101 person years in 2026-27, which is up from 99 last year.

Mr. Chair, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs operates through six branches:

- Directorate provides overall management and coordination of the activities and responsibilities of intergovernmental affairs and the executive branch of government, including government-wide communications while also supporting the Utility Rates Review Council and the Elders Secretariat. The 2026-2027 main estimates include \$6.133 million, and 22 person years for this branch.
- Strategic management leads the coordination of policy and legislative development with Government of Nunavut departments and agencies to ensure that Ikajuqtigiikta is effectively implemented and supports cabinet through analysis of submissions. This branch is also responsible for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit and the territorial access to information and protection of privacy office. The 2026-2027 main estimates include \$4.531 million and 29 person-years for this branch.
- Nunavut cabinet includes 21 positions that are dedicated staff for cabinet. The 2026-2027 main estimates include \$5.876 million for this branch.
- The Office of the Commissioner of Nunavut includes one position that provides administrative support to the commissioner in fulfilling constitutional and statutory duties, as well as assistance in protocol and cultural matters. The 2026-2027 main estimates include \$378,000 for this branch.
- Intergovernmental affairs ensures the government's priorities and interests are represented and promoted nationally and internationally, and coordinates matters related to programs and services for immigration and sustainable development. The 2026-2027 main estimates include \$2.063 million and 15 person years for this branch.
- The Devolution Secretariat leads the government's preparation for implementation of the devolution agreement. The 2026-2027 main estimates include \$2.652 million and 13 person-years for this branch. The department's new positions, director of policy and planning and communications, director of corporate services, and director of human resources, Inuit employment and training, are key positions for establishing the new department before the April 1, 2027 transfer date.
- Funding for these new positions will come from the Government of Canada through the devolution grant agreement with the Government of Nunavut and individuals hired will be employees of the new department.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to present Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' main estimates and business plan. I welcome comments from my fellow members and look forward to answering your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2026-2027 main estimates and 2026-2030 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 operations and maintenance budget is \$21,633,000. This represents an 8.5 per cent increase from the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The number of positions in the department is increasing from 99 in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to 101 in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee.

The government's new *Aging with Dignity Elders and Seniors Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 7, 2024. A progress report on the implementation of the strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 5, 2025. The department's 2025-2026 main estimates included funding for the creation of a new Elders Secretariat. However, it appears that the department has been unsuccessful in filling these positions.

On October 11, 2024, the department announced that the communities of Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, Pangnirtung and Rankin Inlet would be receiving "specialized vans... to provide elders with improved mobility and access to community and government services." The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "develop an accessible transportation program." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of the department's work to operationalize the existing mobility vans and expand the service to other communities.

A new Immigration Division was established within the department's Intergovernmental Affairs Branch during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that two of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year are to "compile and begin analysis of available federal, territorial, and stakeholder data related to immigration flows and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program usage in Nunavut" and "design and launch a Nunavut-wide immigration survey to gather perspectives from employers, Inuit organizations, communities, and nonprofits." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this initiative.

The *Decentralization Review* report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2024. The government's response to the review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2025. One of the recommendations contained in the *Decentralization Review* report is to "continue to consider the need for any dysfunctional headquarters offices to be moved from a community to Iqaluit or a regional centre." The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "develop policy options for decentralization."

The department's 2025-2026 business plan indicated that it "coordinates and participates in Nunavut Implementation Panel meetings to monitor and discuss implementation activities of the Nunavut Agreement." The Nunavut Implementation Panel's 2012-2013 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2019. No other annual reports have been tabled since that time. Given the infrequency with which the panel produces annual reports, the standing committee encourages the minister to provide periodic updates to the Legislative Assembly on its activities and initiatives.

The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "conduct an independent review, through the Nunavut Implementation Panel, of Nunavut Agreement Article 23 and recommend measures to address identified deficiencies." The standing committee encourages the minister to table the results of the "independent Article 23 review" at the earliest opportunity.

The *Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement* was signed on January 18, 2024. The Agreement was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 22, 2024. The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "finalize and advance legislation required to establish the authorities necessary to implement devolution." In recent weeks, the government has issued a number of job advertisements for senior positions in the "new department which will be created as the result of the devolution of authorities over land and waters to the Government of Nunavut." The extent to which the creation of the new entity will impact the current size and structure of existing Government of Nunavut departments is unclear.

The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "lead the Government of Nunavut's participation in the finalization of the Ghotelnene K'odtjneh Dene Agreement, the Athabasca Denesūliné Agreement, and Nunavut Agreement amendments." The extent to which the consent of these transboundary entities will be required for such projects as the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link to proceed is unclear.

I might also add that in the Kitikmeot region, with the Grays Bay Road and Port project, there will also be transboundary issues as well, and again, the question of consent of those parties is unclear as well.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2026-2027 main estimates and 2026-2030 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you.

Chairman: Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I have no names for general comments.

We'll now proceed to page-by-page review of the 2026-2027 main estimates starting on page B-4. We will now review the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate Branch, the main estimates for the 2026-2027 for a total of \$6,133,000. Do members have any questions? Go ahead, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2025-2026, \$665,000 for the new elders offices. In your business plan for 2026-2027, it states that the budget for the elders office is going to increase by \$1,873,000. What is the increase for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for asking questions.

The funding has increased. Looking at the increase, we have applied or requested that the Elders Secretariat for their vehicles, for the operation of the elders vehicles, and that's why we have requested for funding for that budget. We are planning that the funding, if the budget is approved, that we would develop the policy.

Once the policy has been approved, we'll make an announcement in Nunavut in regards to the vehicle operators. They will be able to apply for funding after that. So that's why there's an increase on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. There's going to be a new Elders Secretariat, I believe it's an office or a secretariat. If you can explain for the creation of the new Elders Secretariat. Can you explain to me what exactly that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) The Elders Secretariat was created in 2025-2026 through that budget and business planning exercise. So the focus right now is on getting the Elders Secretariat staffed.

We have made attempts to fill the senior position within that Elders Secretariat, which is a director. Unfortunately, to date we've been unsuccessful. However, the department is committed to filling the positions and seeing the secretariat come into its role. It is an important central agency type of role. Recognizing that many departments have responsibilities or objectives tied to elders, we see that coordination role as being a key one, and we really want to find a way to get the secretariat staffed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister as well. I would like to ask how many of the Elders Secretariat positions are currently filled with indeterminate employees and how many are vacant? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time all are vacant. We are concerned about the vacancies of these positions. We are considering how we can fill these positions and how we can provide support to fill this position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to elders as well, now that I'm sure you're going to be providing funding for elders vehicles operation, I'm sure you will be providing funding for that, for the operation. Will this be a common practice? Like every program that's towards elders, in order for them to move ahead, and I'm very pleased that the communities in Nunavut have received will be receiving elders vehicle operating funding. The only way to run this smoothly is to have a person working at the secretariat.

What are the main responsibilities for this position going to be so that the elders will understand exactly these positions are? If you can explain further on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I cannot exactly tell you at this time what the requirements will be or responsibilities will be, because different communities require different, they have different needs. Some operate through the municipality to run the vehicle. In other communities, the responsibility lies with the private business to operate the elders vans, or non-profit committees.

If they are to operate that, the policy will be developed once the funding has been approved. Once this application for funding, or budget, once it's approved, we'll be able to provide funding to support to the communities, even though they are at arm's length from the government with the vehicles, we don't mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister, as well. I'm thinking. I'm sure I'll be making a question in the future in regards to this issue.

I would also like to ask: Your department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for 2026-2027 fiscal year is (no interpret) accessible transportation program. (interpretation) What are the main elements of this program? Because it's going to require some funding. I'm sure it's different from what we already mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's the official name for I guess what we refer to as the elders van support initiative. What we want to do here is develop a grants and contributions policy that will allow us to transfer funding to successful applicants, who will provide accessible transportation at the community level.

Accessible transportation is a broader term, and it refers to more than recognizing that there are more than -- it's not only elders who have the need for accessible transport; also folks with mobility needs at the community level. They could be children, they could be adults who would also benefit from this accessible transportation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next on the list, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. The *Aging with Dignity Elders and Seniors Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 7, 2024. A progress report on the implementation of the strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 5, 2025.

When will the next progress report be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly?
Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Right now the focus is on staffing up the Elders Secretariat, largely as a consequence of the fact

that the positions in the secretariat are currently vacant. The timeline for our next status report is a bit fuzzy right now.

We want to work in a step-wise manner, and we understand that there's a lot of important work that is laid out in the strategy, and an update is important and valuable. However, it is largely due to the staffing that at this point the timeline for the update is unclear. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. Ministerial mandate letters were tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of November 8, 2022. These include a detailed list of priority actions for each ministerial portfolio. Do you plan to issue new ministerial mandate letters to the current cabinet? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So we've taken a look at the practice of issuing mandate letters and then also tabling them. So the current plan is that we will be issuing mandate letters. We're planning to take a bit of a different approach, and those will be considered internal documents, and the plan at this point is not to table those in the Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): In regards to elders vans, the government had purchased vans for the elders. But, for example, the maintenance of the vehicles like for example, if they need to change the tire, the oil change and/or since we are from the cold weather environment up north like, for example, the garage. We need to consider these as well. How will you lay this out in regards to this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will have to include those. So with regards to policies and policy for the vehicles, and these are funds that will be for, not only just for drivers, but the vehicles will need to function properly; and that will have to be included, mentioning it.

The details, it is a little bit difficult (interpretation ends) when you look at the different requirements that the member has mentioned around maintenance and storage, and you also look at the licensing requirements that the staff would have, as well as insurance. Once you begin to look into the details of operating an accessible transport service in a community, there's quite a lot of work involved.

However, we want to be a partner. We want to support this service. And this is the start, I think, or a continuation of something that was started in the last government. We know there's a desire from most, if not all, communities for this type of service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any questions on Directorate Branch? Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When will the new ministerial mandate letters be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qammaniq, the minister has already answered that question. Do you have any further questions? Go ahead, Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): My apologies. Perhaps this was not asked. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 main estimates indicate that the Directorate Branch budget for service contracts has increased from 72,000 in 2025-2026 fiscal year to \$2,170,000 in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This represents an increase of 161.2 percent. What accounts for this increase? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) The increase is tied to the accessible transport initiative. And so at this point, the budgeted amount, we have put forward an amount in terms of this initial budget. Once we have developed the policy and put out, opened up the application process, it will be really valuable to us and it will help us to determine the amount of need at the community level.

There are five vans that were purchased by a private entity through an initiative in the previous government. However, we know there's also additional vans in additional communities that are being operated in some cases by the hamlet or by other parties.

So once we develop the policy and put out a call for applications, we'll learn a lot about which parties are operating these services and which parties are looking for support. So it will help us to be able to determine what an appropriate budget amount is for coming years, based on the level of interest. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I see no other names for questions on the Directorate Branch. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase proposed for 2026-2027, it wants to put forward and place an office in Ottawa and is in the planning stages at this time. What is the status of that, Minister? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're still at the exploratory stages on this. We are looking at whether an office or a presence in Ottawa wouldn't be a benefit to our government. We look at organizations who are lobbying for funding. You look at the cabinet as a whole.

It's quite frequent, the travel to Ottawa to meet with stakeholders or to meet with federal partners, mostly. And so we're not fully decided on this yet, but there's a potential for this, so we're exploring options about looking at ways we could do this in the most efficient manner, and whether it will be beneficial to our government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. This has been a very important area and something to be initiated for 2026-2027, as you mentioned, that it is referring to and this would be under sovereignty of Nunavut. And Nunavut Tunngavik is mentioned as partner. Could you perhaps give a little more information regarding this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Arctic Sovereignty and Security Strategy, it was developed and finalized late in the last government. With that strategy having been jointly developed and released, the idea or the focus now is on trying to implement that strategy.

I want to point out that when it comes to Arctic Security and Sovereignty, things are happening quite quickly in terms of federal approaches, federal decisions around things like operational support hubs and other infrastructure. There's also a lot in play around major projects and infrastructure monies that potentially could come to the Nunavut government or other partners.

So when I look at the strategy by itself, even though it's not that old, it's already a bit dated. It's already I think speaking very much to the 2025 vision. I wanted to share that things are moving very fast in the security and sovereignty field, so we have a dedicated working group with Nunavut Tunngavik on this area. I just wanted to share that as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you. My last question. What will be moving ahead again in 2026-2027 fiscal year is to start reviewing and see if perhaps we can have community consultation process, and the reasoning on different regional offices, I guess. When exactly will this start or be implemented, Mr. Chair?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) What we are trying to do is formalized our approach to consultation and consensus decision-making. So depending on the department, depending on the specific initiative, you can see a very, an approach to consultation that varies widely. And as a central agency, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is seeing value in providing some guidance to departments so they don't have to start from scratch if they are looking to go and consult on an initiative. Not that we would necessarily tie their hands in terms of how they consult with communities; but give them a head start is the desire.

And this would fall under the Katujjiqatigiinni Article 32 policy, in terms of developing this consultation process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Having no other names for questions, do members agree with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate Branch total operations and maintenance of \$6,133,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page B-5. We'll now review the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Strategic Planning Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The *Decentralization Review* report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2024. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop policy options for decentralization. What specific options are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I mean looking at decentralization, and even though it goes back to the creation of the territory, the government has never had a formal written policy on the subject. It has been managed more as an initiative or ongoing project.

And so we do see decentralization as being important, particularly when it comes to Inuit employment, because when we see decentralized Government of Nunavut jobs, we do see higher Inuit employment rates.

And so the need for a policy is there, and it's a bit early to be speaking to the specifics of what would end up in that policy. However, it's 2026. What we can do these days with technology is amazing, and so that would be definitely an area that we would be looking to harness or enable in terms of decentralization, to allow greater flexibility to access, in particular, potential Inuit employees across Nunavut. Access to them as a government, access their talents, their skills and allow them to hopefully work for the government through a decentralization policy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Decentralization Review* report is to continue to consider the need for any dysfunctional headquarters' offices to be moved from a community to Iqaluit or a regional centre. Which specific offices are being actively considered for relocation? (interpretation) *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First off, I think that term "dysfunctional," looking back, I think maybe that could have been worded a bit better in terms of just the kind of negative connotations of that. But anyway, the report is out; it's too late to change that exact term.

Ultimately it's each department's responsibility to ensure that their different functions, their different divisions are working as they should. So it's not on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to keep a little list of offices that need improvement. It's departments that would come forward for any changes or reorganization-type submissions that would go to cabinet around moving specific positions from one community to another. I hope that sums it up. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 main estimates indicate that your department's Bureau of Statistics has a total of six positions. How many of the positions are filled with indeterminate employees and how many are vacant? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Mr. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently we have three indeterminant employees, two casual, and one vacant position.

I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the excellent work that our Bureau of Statistics does on behalf of Nunavummiut, an example being the recent food price survey. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 main estimates indicate that your department's access to information and protection of privacy office has a total of five positions. How many of the positions are filled with indeterminant employees and how many are vacant? *Qujannamiik.*

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to report that all of the positions are filled indeterminantly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. It's great that you were able to hire them.

(interpretation ends) Your department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete internal consultations on the 2025 review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and prepare for external consultations. What specific amendments to the legislations are being considered? *Qujannamiik.*

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is the first step towards creating an updated and modernized act. One of the considerations or key considerations for the department is how do we incorporate Inuit Qaujimatanguang or Inuit societal values into our approach.

The Nunavut government is unique. Nunavut society and Inuit culture is unique, and we want our legislation to reflect Inuit culture and values to the maximum possible. So we have begun internal consultations, including with Tuttarviit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, in your objectives, I think it's in the seventh bullet, the food price survey that is surveyed every year in the communities by government liaison officers, they do recording of food prices or things that you need to live. They do a price survey, cost of living survey.

How do you use that? What use is it to do a food survey? I've never really understood why they do the food cost survey. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it is useful. We use it as a foundation. These surveys, we use them as a foundation as a government when we're making considerations on different things. And the surveys are about different things. There is income support or other things. And we keep an eye on the rising costs of things and how they affect things.

And whenever we talk to representatives from the federal government, we convey to them how hard it is for the people of Nunavut to live on those.

Sometimes the minister suggests talk about things, and they want to hear numbers, like as to the rising cost of things. They like seeing numbers. And they believe us more when we produce numbers. So it is useful in that regard.

(interpretation ends) The 2026 cycle of data collection is substantially complete, and we're working through towards the next report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister. In the action plan for 2026-2027, on the fourth bullet, to do a review to do an update on the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Government of Nunavut departments and NTI, (interpretation) with Article 32, what do they try to find when they are reviewing the act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that one, the policy, it helps us because we want to have good collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik, for example. So that policy from 2021 was enacted at that year, and now five years will have

passed. And do we need to update it or change it a little bit? We're talking to Nunavut Tunngavik about it right now.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chair, I also want to point out that there's an information sharing agreement as a part of this policy or tied to this policy that has helped us work with Nunavut Tunngavik in areas such as tuberculosis elimination, where the Nunavut government can share data with Nunavut Tunngavik through this mechanism.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I am seeing no other names. Do members agree with the department's Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Strategic Planning Branch total operations and maintenance of \$4,531,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page B-6. We will now review the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Nunavut Cabinet Branch, main estimates for the 2026-2027 for a total of \$5,876,000. Do members have any questions? Seeing none, do members agree with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Nunavut Cabinet Branch total operations and maintenance of \$5,876,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page B-7. We will now review the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Commissioner of Nunavut Branch. Do members have any questions? Seeing none, do members agree with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Commissioner of Nunavut Branch total operations and maintenance of \$378,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page B-8. We will now review the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Branch main estimates for 2026-2027, a total of \$2,063,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chairman. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that two of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year are to compile and begin analysis of available federal, territorial, and stakeholder data related to immigration flows, and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in Nunavut, and to design and launch a Nunavut-wide immigration survey to gather perspective from employees, Inuit organizations, communities, and non-profits.

Approximately how many temporary foreign workers are currently employed in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, which is a program under Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, it's not under the management of the Nunavut government. To date in 2026, there are zero permit-holders, indicating Nunavut. As of 2025, the year-end total was 60 permanent holders in Nunavut under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

In terms of planning our approach and looking at a Nunavut-specific immigration policy, we are working towards a Nunavut immigration survey. So we're doing the planning work right now. The Nunavut immigration survey will seek to better understand perspectives on immigration, on labour market needs, on attracting and retaining newcomers, and also on the use of temporary foreign workers in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chairman, and thank you, Minister, for your response.

The Nunavut Implementation Panel's 2012-2013 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5, 2019. When will its overdue annual report be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Government of Canada has a responsibility to create and publish these reports, and the Government of Nunavut has made submissions in the past to Government of Canada and continues to encourage the reports to be completed so that they can be tabled. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for your response. As of today, who are the members of the Nunavut Implementation Panel? Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Government of Nunavut, we have Dee Dejancour, who is representing Nunavut government. From Nunavut Tunngavik we have there Pacome Lloyd and Brad Hickers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. (interpretation) I have a question. It is in regards to your department's 2026-2030 business plan that indicates that one of its planned actions for 2026-2027 to have a meeting with the Aboriginal people. There's going to be an amendment to the business plan to lead the Government of Nunavut's participation in the finalization of the Aboriginal groups and Nunavut Agreement amendments. As of today, what's the status of this work?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Looking at these two treaties, they were successfully ratified about a year ago, in June 2025. Right now the work is focused right now on the work between Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, the Government of Northwest Territories, and other parties, is towards the implementation plans for these agreements, as well as work towards Nunavut Agreement amendments and the implementation contract tied to that.

This has been a long process for the Dene, and they continue to make progress. Once the agreements are finalized and implementation has been agreed to, and the Nunavut Agreement is amended, we will have a duty to implement these agreements, and so we want that to be done in a cost neutral manner. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Seeing no more questions. Do members agree with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Branch total operations and maintenance of \$2,063,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page B-9. We will now review the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Devolution Secretariat Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): I have a question. We have been asking questions about in regards to devolution and the MP Nunavut Land Use Plan, and the NPC's Nunavut Land Use Plan. It is something that I don't quite understand whether they're going to be implemented together or separately, or what actions will be replace with this devolution with public lands. Not Inuit owned lands, but public lands. There's the Inuit owned lands and the public lands. At times, when thinking about it, I think that we have to be careful,

and the Nunavut Planning Commission document is being reviewed currently. Maybe the minister can indicate what thoughts he has on these subjects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are a lot of moving parts, and so I can understand that the member's desire to see how devolution and the land use planning interact. In essence, they are separate processes that are underway.

The Devolution Agreement has been, , it will be three years between when the agreement was signed and when it gets implemented April 1, 2027. The land use planning process has been ongoing. It's also a long-term initiative.

Maybe this will help to explain. Looking at the Nunavut Planning Commission, following devolution there will be no change to the funding source for the planning commission. The remuneration of members of the planning commission will continue to be set by the federal government in legislation.

For the Nunavut Planning Commission, following devolution, there will be some further Government of Nunavut responsibility when it comes to appointing commissioners, I believe they are called, or members, representatives. However, when you look at the Nunavut Planning Commission, there will be no change to the decision-making process, and there will be no change to the compliance and enforcement process post-devolution.

So there is some interaction there, but in many respects the devolution and the Nunavut Planning Commission, Nunavut Planning Commission will continue to exist as it currently does. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank the minister.

As it's an ongoing issue, and with devolution, and we know that in 2027-2028, while this current government is sitting, it's obvious that it will be implemented next year. I'm sure that there will be discussions on the importance. it will be part of our responsibility. So I don't know how much more responsibility we'll be taking on or how long it would take. I would like the minister to indulge and give us information on the timeline and stuff. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am bit unsure if the member is referring to legislation that will be tied to devolution? Okay. There is a mirroring exercise that will be carried out, where the federal legislation that currently governs the federal responsibilities will need to be mirrored into our legislative landscape.

And so there are five bills that we are planning to bring for consideration prior to the transfer date, as well as one set of regulations, so six, I guess you could call them legislative projects, that need to be completed prior to transfer date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister. The Devolution Secretariat will be now under the Nunavut government when the laws are implemented, (interpretation ends) control of Crown lands, rights in respect of waters and natural resources in Nunavut. (interpretation) I'm sure it will take a lot of work, and there are going to be employees that will be transferred from the federal government to the Nunavut government.

Would there be some income coming in with us taking on the added responsibility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) if you will allow me to change witnesses, with your permission, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Atienza. Or sorry, Mr. Mansell. Go ahead.

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the good question. One of the intentions when we were negotiating the Devolution Agreement was, since we're taking on federal responsibilities, the federal government should pay us to do that. And along with devolution comes a transfer payment to the Government of Nunavut.

So we have a one-time transitional funding in the amount of \$82.25 million, and then \$64 million ongoing, which gets added to our territorial formula financing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But in regards to mining, I believe they provide funding, or give some of their funding to the federal government. So will they be transferring? The funds that usually go to the federal government, will they be taken by Nunavut?

I don't even know whether the mining companies provide funding to the federal government. So if this devolution occurs, would that happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The member is correct. If you'll allow Mr. Mansell to add a bit more background around the royalties issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you for the question. One of the benefits of devolution is that the Government of Nunavut becomes entitled to royalties from mining projects on Crown land.

Right now in Nunavut there is not a lot of development on Crown land, so it's really a future income and a future economic opportunity that we're looking forward to.

Right now most of the mining in the territory, other than a negligible number, is on Inuit owned land, and those royalties go to the Inuit organizations. But projects on federal Crown land after devolution, royalties from those projects would come to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know where my colleague gets the information (interpretation ends) In recent weeks, the government has issued a number of job advertisements for senior positions in the new department which will be created as a result of the devolution of authorities over land and water to the Government of Nunavut. Approximately how many positions will the new department have? Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) You might have heard Mr. Mansell: if approved. The numbers are all subject to approval in the Assembly.

The new department would have 174 total positions. In addition, there are related additional positions that would need to be created within brother or sister departments.

So creation of this new department of Mines, Natural Resources and Land also would involve two additional positions for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, ten additional positions for Transport and Infrastructure Nunavut, two additional positions for Environment, two additional positions for Finance, four additional positions for Justice, five additional positions at Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, two additional positions within Human Resources, and an additional two positions within Culture and Heritage.

So I think that just reflects the fact that no one department stands on its own. They all work together and are related, as part of a big, happy government family. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Attagutluk.

Mr. Attagutluk: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Minister. How many of these positions will be transferred from the existing Government of Nunavut departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I just want to remind the member that their question was already answered. Seeing no more questions. Sorry, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. Under Actions, 2026-2027, “oversee transition readiness activities, including the asset transfer, organizational and program design required for transfer deed.”

(interpretation) My question will be in regards to devolution. Devolution as a government. We understand exactly what the plans are for devolution. But do Nunavummiut understand what the plans are, on the contents of what the plans are for devolution? What will occur?

For example, one individual Inuk understood that we will own, we will be responsible for the lands now in the territory of Nunavut, as well as the seas. With devolution, what does exactly that mean to the communities in Nunavut? Would you inform the communities and consult and visit the communities to explain what devolution is, in regards to the devolution? That’s my question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the question, I understand that Nunavummiut need to know exactly what devolution means and what it contains.

We are now working on developing a communications plan, but we have not planned on going to the communities or visiting them. So we will be informing them through the media, through internet, and through the radio and broadcast what devolution's contents are.

Looking at the Nunavut government, it's going to increase with a new department within the government, and our government will have more authority. For example, the government will want Nunavummiut to have a clear understanding, and we will consult and inform the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any more questions? Seeing none, do members agree with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Devolution Secretariat Branch total operations and maintenance of \$2,652,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page B-3. Do members agree with the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs 2026-2027 main estimates, total operations and maintenance of \$21,633,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Any closing comments, Minister Premier Main?

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much to the dedicated staff in the department, Deputy Fowler, Mr. Mansell, Mr. Atienza.

As I've mentioned before, these numbers don't add themselves up, so I would like to again pay tribute to not just the Bureau of Statistics, but the entire department. There's a lot of dedicated folks who work very hard on behalf of our government, and without them, this whole exercise would be very difficult to implement.

And I thank the members for their detailed questioning today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. We will take a ten-minute break before we start a review of the 2026-2027 Main Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

>>*Committee adjourned at 17:13 and resumed 17:26*

Chairman (Mr. Fred Pedersen): Thank you. I'll return to our Committee of the Whole meeting. I would like to ask:, Mr. Speaker, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have officials here with me. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in.

For the record, Minister Speaker, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, MLAs. Good afternoon.

Here with me at the Legislature, first to my right and to your left is Ms. Tanya Winmill, who is the Director-Coordinator of Operations and Finances; and to your right, my left, CEO, Mr. Steven Innuksuk, the clerk.

To my opening: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to appear before you today to present the 2026-2027 main estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The Legislative Assembly's 2026-2027 main estimates reflect the financial and human resources required for the operation of the institution, as well as the offices of its independent officers.

In total, Mr. Chairman, we are requesting a total of \$31,076,000 in operations and maintenance funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This is a decrease from the 2025-2026 fiscal year, primarily a consequence of the Office of the Chief Electoral not requiring an election year budget adjustment.

I note that section 37 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* requires that an independent commission to review members' indemnities, allowances, expenses and benefits be established following every second territorial general election. The Management and Services Board is currently in the process of establishing the commission.

Mr. Chair, as members are aware, we recently marked the 25th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut. I am pleased to note that following the recent Mace Tour to Kimmirut, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, the Mace has now been to every community in Nunavut. I wish to acknowledge and thank Her Honour the Commissioner for being a part of this initiative, and presenting Commissioner's Awards to a number of Nunavummiut. My office looks forward to refreshing the Mace Tour and other outreach initiatives over the life of the 7th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chair, I will be pleased to answer any questions members may have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, we'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of the 2026-2027 main estimates, starting on page A-4.

We will now review the Office of the Legislative Assembly Assembly Branch total operations and maintenance, \$10,408,000. Do members have any questions? Seeing none, do members agree with the Office of the Legislative Assembly Assembly Branch, total operations and maintenance of \$10,408,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page A-5. We will now review the Office of the Legislative Assembly expenditures on behalf of the Members Branch. Total operations and maintenance, \$14,196,000. Do members have any questions? Seeing none, do members agree with the Office of the Legislative Assembly, expenditures on behalf of Members Branch, total operations and maintenance of \$14,196,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page A-6. We'll now review the Office of the Legislative Assembly Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly Branch. Total operations and maintenance, \$6,472,000. Do members have any questions?

Seeing none, do members agree with the Office of the Legislative Assembly Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly Branch, total operations and maintenance of \$6,472,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page A-3. Do members agree with the Office of the Legislative Assembly 2026-2027 main estimates, total operations and maintenance of \$31,076,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): I thank you, Mr. Chair, and colleagues for approving this for our expenditures for 2026-2027, and I anticipate that we will use the funds wisely until the fiscal year ends.

And I'm grateful that our meeting has been able to go on smoothly today, and I thank my staff for preparing my presentation and on our upcoming expenditures for their much needed help.

And also I thank our interpreters as we try and use Inuktitut constantly, and that we are continuing to air to Nunavummiut, and I also thank the interpreters. That is all. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. Members, you can remain in your chairs, and we'll now start the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*.

Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Members, if you could go to Bill 1 in your Operations and Maintenance binder. Before us we have Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*.

Under Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*, members, go to Bill 1 in your legislation binder.

Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3, go to schedule on page 2. Vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$2,470,200. Total operation, \$2,470,200,000; clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 1 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027* is ready for third reading on the *Orders of the Day*?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to conclude Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027* is ready for third reading on the *Orders of the Day*?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to conclude Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. We have a motion on the floor to report progress, and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

>> *Committee adjourned at 17:39 and House resumed at 17:40*

Speaker (interpretation): Item number 20, report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pedersen.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Pedersen: Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*, and would like to report that Bill 1 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akeegok. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed? Motion carried.

Orders of the Day, item number 21, Third Reading of Bills. I recognize the finance minister. Minister Main.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 1 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 – Third Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I by the Hon. Member from Iqaluit-Tasiluk that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027* be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion all those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Item number 22, *Orders of the Day*, clerk of the Assembly.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know we had scheduled a meeting of the full caucus tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., but that meeting took place last Friday, so there is no meeting of full caucus tomorrow morning. *Orders of the Day* for tomorrow, June 11:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. *Orders of the Day*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. All those watching TV and listening on the radio in Nunavut and other places, I hope you had good reception, and we say good-bye. The session for today is adjourned and we will start again tomorrow on June 11 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:43*

